

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	January 6, 2020
Action Required:	Resolution Adoption
Presenter:	John C. Blair, II, City Attorney
Staff Contacts:	John C. Blair, II, City Attorney
Title:	<b>Letter Supporting Eviction Crisis Act Legislation</b>

**Background:**

Senators Michael Bennet and Robert Portman have introduced the Eviction Crisis Act (ECA) in the United States Senate. The ECA attempts to address the national housing crisis and reduce or mitigate the effects of evictions.

Specifically, the ECA intends to improve the data and analysis on evictions by creating a national database to standardize data and track evictions, establish a Federal Advisory Committee on Eviction Research, and increase funding to study evictions.

Additionally, the ECA aims to reduce preventable evictions by incentivizing states to create community courts for landlord-tenant disputes, establishing an Emergency Assistance Fund grant program with local matching funds to provide short-term assistance to tenants facing an acute eviction crisis, and increasing funding for the Legal Services Corporation.

Finally, the ECA proposes to increase transparency for tenants and to remove inaccurate or inappropriate information on tenant screening reports by requiring consumer reporting agencies to provide consumers with tenant screening reports when they are requested as part of a rental application process. Additionally, the ECA requires eviction judgments and related filings to be removed from tenant screening reports when courts find in favor of tenants.

**Discussion:**

Nancy Carpenter spoke about the ECA at Council's December 16, 2019 meeting. In response to Ms. Carpenter's comments, the City Attorney's Office prepared the attached Resolution and correspondence to Senators Mark R. Warner and Timothy M. Kaine for the Council's consideration.

**Budgetary Impact:**

None.

**Alternatives:**

The Council could decline to adopt the proposed resolution.

**Attachments:**

Proposed Resolution

Proposed Correspondence to Senators Warner and Kaine

**RESOLUTION  
SUPPORTING THE EVICTION CRISIS ACT  
AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SEND A LETTER  
TO SENATORS WARNER AND KAINE IN SUPPORT OF THE ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the Charlottesville City Council recognizes that an affordable housing crisis is affecting the nation's cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charlottesville City Council recognizes that a component in the affordable housing crisis is a nationwide increase in evictions; and

**WHEREAS**, United States Senators Michael Bennet and Robert Portman have introduced the Eviction Crisis Act in the United States Senate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charlottesville City Council supports the enactment of the Eviction Crisis Act.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that a copy of this Resolution shall be delivered to United States Senators Mark R. Warner and Timothy M. Kaine.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor of the City of Charlottesville is authorized to sign and deliver a copy of the correspondence attached to this Resolution.

[Letterhead of Mayor]

January 6, 2020

The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
United States Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine  
United States Senate  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Eviction Crisis Act

Dear Senators Warner and Kaine:

The Charlottesville City Council writes in support of the federal Eviction Crisis Act legislation introduced by Senators Bennet and Portman. Charlottesville, like most of the nation's cities, faces an affordable housing crisis. A tragic side effect of this crisis is the eviction of our city's residents from their home.

The Eviction Crisis Act contains numerous provisions that can assist our city's residents. The Council supports increased funding for the Legal Services Corporation, a national database to standardize and track eviction proceedings, and to establish an emergency assistance fund matching program for local governments to provide one-time assistance to eviction-vulnerable tenants.

A copy of the Council's Resolution supporting the Eviction Crisis Act legislation is enclosed. Please feel free to contact myself or any member of the Council if you need additional information about the City's support of this initiative. I remain

Sincerely,